



THE PLACES YOU'LL GO

Lebanon Valley College PRESIDENT'S REPORT





“The Places You’ll Go”

For this issue, we decided to spotlight Lebanon Valley College graduates pursuing interesting—and often fun—careers. Our graduates are everywhere—deep-sea diving off the coast of southern Australia, or teaching skiing atop the Continental Divide in Aspen, Colo. Some are pursuing exotic careers without straying far from home—a former psychology major is director of The Falconry Experience by the Hotel Hershey, where he demonstrates for guests the sport of hunting with falcons.

Our graduates have used the skills they learned at LVC in surprising ways. There’s the physics major who used his expertise to design take-down recurve hunting bows, and then taught himself how to design high-end, custom Western hats, and the individualized graphic arts major who morphed into creating custom wedding gowns.

Our alumni work in places ranging from Bora Bora to Scotland. They work for the familiar—the New England Aquarium, Colonial Williamsburg, The Franklin Institute, the Martin Guitar Company, the Pennsylvania Ballet—and the less familiar—Griffith Laboratories, Maiden Re, International Flavors and Fragrances.

They hold titles ranging from senior research fellow, to CEO, to ski pro.

We had to narrow our list to 20 alumni: authors, designers, scientists, educators, performers, historians, naturalists, graduate students, and death-penalty defenders, to name a few.

The graduates spotlighted here represent just a small sample of the many careers a Lebanon Valley College liberal arts degree has enabled. We hope you enjoy reading about all the places our alumni have gone, and the impact they are making on our world.

Dear Friends,

In the midst of the difficult economic times that have challenged us all these past few months, the College has re-examined many of its admission and enrollment practices.

According to *U.S. News & World Report's* 2010 edition of *America's Best Colleges*, we are already doing a lot right. LVC is ranked #2 in the North in the "Great Schools, Great Prices" category. We are among the top three percent in the nation in our category for Average Freshman Retention Rate (meaning the percentage of freshman students who return for their sophomore year).

Our overall retention actually improved by five percentage points from the fall of 2008—when 81 percent of our freshmen came back for their sophomore year—to 2009, when 86 percent of our freshmen returned. But all that good news has not made us complacent. Last year, we offered assistance to struggling families in the economic downturn, helping them identify additional sources of financial aid so students could stay in college.



We are determined to recruit future classes at a time when the total pool of potential applicants in our region is undergoing a decline. We want to enroll students with the quality and character who historically succeed at the Valley, while increasing our enrollment from 1,600 to 1,700 over the next few years. We are learning to create "signature moments" for visiting prospective students, letting our Valley ambassadors' personal stories about LVC take center stage so they can truly connect with students interested in attending Lebanon Valley College.

We have launched a new web site that was brought online to great acclaim in August at www.lvc.edu. We will renovate and expand the Mund College Center. Some 40 years after its last major renovation, the nearly 60-year-old building is looking tired,

particularly in comparison to our competitors' facilities. This fall, the LVC Board of Trustees agreed, and construction to rebuild is slated to begin in the fall of 2010 and will be completed over a two-year period.

We are now showcasing our campus, students, and faculty in the best light—beginning with the launch of the GoDutchmen.com sports web site in September 2008, continuing through fall 2009 with the rollout of the rest of the College's new web site, and then on to the redesign of all admission publications. At the same time, our Admission Office has found new ways to reach thousands more



(L to R): Jimmy Kroll '11, Samantha Pabon '13, Dr. Stephen MacDonald, Emily Hopkins '11, Jonathan Leer '12

potential applicants. All of these efforts seem to be paying off. As of December 2009, applications for fall 2010 were up 28 percent, and inquiries from prospective high school students for fall 2011 were up 66 percent.

The students who enroll will find it easy to forge a deep connection to LVC from their first day on campus. Some first-year students in the Class of 2013 found themselves immersed in learning communities that cluster students in residence halls who are enrolled in the same academic



classes as part of our yearlong colloquium. They have the chance to bond in and out of the classroom. One learning community that shared a pod in the newly opened Stanson Hall met regularly with Professor Jeff Robbins, Ph.D., of the Religion and Philosophy Department, who is director of this year's colloquium on technology, titled *Wired*. He took his group to New York City where they became so close, they created their own holiday card.

Dr. Michael Green joined us in July as vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty. He has already made great strides toward improving the LVC experience for the "undeclared" or "open" majors. Shannon Brandt came onboard in July as the College's first assistant dean of student success and advising. She is not only overseeing the advising process for open majors, but also assisting first-year students with the transition to college life.

Many of our newer programs are aimed at further engaging all LVC students. As part of our inaugural

Distinguished Artists Series, world-renowned musicians offered master classes for students. Political science students took part for the second year in a three-day European Union simulation in Washington, D.C. The annual Social Justice Institute's trip to New York City has been transformative for the 20 students who have taken part for each of the last few years, as they interviewed workers at various nonprofits on the frontlines of issues such as racism, sexism, and classism. The Pleet-funded research grants for the humanities and social sciences have brought a new creativity to campus (www.lvc.edu/pleetinitiative). Students and faculty collaborate on research as varied as alcoholism awareness and art—and those are only two of the many projects enabled by this generous gift.

It would be impossible to mention all of our students' successes in national and regional academic competitions and conferences. However, I must highlight three special achievements. Carissa Devine '09 became the 16th LVC student to be recognized as a Fulbright Scholar and is currently in India doing research on a commune (blogs.lvc.edu/india09). Her interest grew out of her LVC major in religion and philosophy. LVC's student chapter of the American Cancer Society's Colleges Against

Cancer received three national awards for its work on campus. Finally, the College's student chapter of Special Olympics was named the 2009 Pennsylvania Special Olympics School of the Year.

The past year was a successful one in athletics as well. The football team went 9-2 (the most wins in program history) and won the ECAC Southwest Bowl. The volleyball team repeated as Commonwealth Conference champions and, along with field hockey, returned to the NCAA playoffs. The men's and women's tennis teams made their first NCAA appearances, and Jenn Cronin '11 became the first female cross country runner from LVC to compete in the NCAA National Championships.





Once again, the softball team was honored by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association as a national All-Academic Team. Lebanon Valley was the top finisher in the Commonwealth Conference for team grade point average. Finally, the College was recognized with a Diversity in Athletics award in the category of Diversity Strategy by the NCAA and the Laboratory for Diversity in Sport at Texas A&M University. LVC is one of 11 institutions nationwide recognized for an outstanding diversity strategy and was the only member of the Middle Atlantic Conferences to receive an award. LVC was honored for its proactive diversity strategy in athletics and for recognizing the value of diversity within the department.

I also wish to share my deepest respect and appreciation for those LVC colleagues and friends who have died in the past year. Together, they served the College for almost two centuries. I know many of you, like me, have fond memories of Dave Evans, former director of career services; Dr. Darwin Glick H'09, trustee *emeritus*; Dr. Diane Iglesias, professor of Spanish; Dr. George Reynolds "Rinso" Marquette '48, vice president *emeritus* of student affairs; Senator James J. Rhoades III P'95, and Walt Smith '61, director *emeritus* of special services and the voice of LVC ice hockey.

Best Wishes,

Stephen MacDonald

GO

THE PLACES YOU'LL

*A look at surprising career
paths taken by LVC alumni*

What is great—and sometimes disconcerting—about a liberal arts degree is how flexible it is. An ambitious graduate can do just about anything with a bachelor's degree. Many choose to follow well-defined careers such as medicine or law. Others take an unpaved road into careers that surprise even them.



Take **Stephen Scanniello '78**. After graduation, the biology major did what many young people do with an unplanned summer—found a job on a landscaping crew. “I wasn’t sure what I was going to do, but I knew I wasn’t interested in the traditional path of medicine, grad school, etc.,” he says. In 1981, led by his interest in botany, Scanniello accepted a teaching position at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and in 1984, became the curator of the garden’s prestigious Cranford Rose Garden. “I was attracted to the prospect of having ‘my own’ garden,” Scanniello says, “but I was terrified. The person who retired from this position was world renowned and had been there for 30 years. I knew nothing about roses, so I crammed all I could. I read many books, went to rose society

*Stephen Scanniello '78
World-renowned Rosarian;
Author: A Rose by Any Name*

*"Any wild animal that was smaller than me
was destined to be dragged home."*

*John "Jack" Hubley '73
Naturalist; TV Host, Wild Moments;
The Falconry Experience by the Hotel Hershey*





*"I can't imagine anything else
I could do with my life ..."*

*Karen Moyer Chow '94
Owner, Gowns by Karen Chow*

meetings, pulled up my boot straps and got dirty.” Scanniello left the Brooklyn Botanic Garden in 1998. Now a **world-renowned rosarian** in his own right, he spends his time designing rose gardens for private and public gardens, writing and lecturing about roses, and serving as a judge for international rose trials. In 2009, Algonquin Books published his most recent work, *A Rose by Any Name: The Little-Known Lore and Deep-Rooted History of Rose Names*.

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Like Scanniello, **Jeremy Brodt '01** majored in biology. However, his interests were decidedly damper. Today, he's a **senior aquarist at the New England Aquarium** in Boston, a job he loves, though it took a girl—and a penguin—to get him there.

“I've always loved penguins and wanted to work with them,” Brodt says. “I had applied for an internship with penguins at the New England Aquarium during the summer after my senior year at LVC, but my housing fell through at the last minute so I wasn't able to do it.” Instead, he went on for a master's degree in biology at the University of Delaware, thought about pursuing a doctoral degree, and started dating a woman who happened to be from Boston. “I figured that since I had some time to hear from doctoral programs, it might be a good time to fulfill my dream of working with penguins, so I followed my two loves—the girl and penguins—up to Boston,” he explains. “I instantly fell in love with Boston, married the girl, and ended up with a job that I never even previously thought about, but fell in love with nonetheless.”

But how did he get from penguins to fish? “I was actually interning in the penguin colony area when a full-time, temporary position working with fish in the galleries opened up,” he says. “At that point, I had never taken a marine biology class, but I'm always eager to learn new things and thought there would be a lot to learn, so I signed on.”

Soon enough, Brodt's temporary position became permanent. Today, he's responsible for the care and feeding of various creatures—fish, amphibians, reptiles, and invertebrates—in the aquarium's exhibits and behind-the-scenes holding tanks. He also keeps an eye on their interactions; monitors the quality of the water; and



Jeremy Brodt '01
Senior Aquarist
New England Aquarium

designs, repairs, and cleans filtration systems. “I really end up being part biologist, part vet, part plumber, part carpenter, and part gardener,” he says. “I'm fortunate because I get to work with a pretty diverse group of animals, from the hulking goliath groupers, to the ornately camouflaged sea dragons, to the unique mudskippers.”

Brodt recently returned from a trip to the southern coast of Australia where he studied the sea dragon. It's these kinds of adventures that make his job so enjoyable. “I love that I get to do a variety of tasks. I get to interact with the animals, work with my hands, problem-solve, dive and collect in the field, and constantly learn new things,” he says.

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For **Christina Felty '09** it took a little more time—and a chance encounter with an LVC alumna—to discover her calling. She started out as a math education major at New York University, but after a semester, realized that path wasn't for her. “I came home and worked



*Christina Felty '09
Veterinary Student
University of Glasgow*

full time while trying to find something to return to school for," she says.

Meanwhile, she adopted a puppy, which meant, soon enough, a visit to the local veterinarian. "The vet talked me through all the procedures and treated my dog like she was her own," says Felty. "I was instantly and almost inexplicably drawn to this profession. The vet then told me she went to Lebanon Valley as an undergraduate." Who was this inspirational vet? **Dr. Melody Enck '00** who practices in Lebanon.

Soon, Felty enrolled at LVC as a biochemistry and molecular biology major on track for **veterinary school**. When it came time to apply, Felty found herself drawn to vet schools in the United Kingdom, largely because she admired their broad-based and hands-on approach to teaching. She chose Scotland's **University of Glasgow**, in part because it's the alma mater of veterinarian James Herriot, author of the *All Creatures Great and Small* series. "I can only hope I'm half the vet he was!" Felty says. "There's nothing quite like the human-animal bond. To play a major role in that is

a huge responsibility, but also one of great personal satisfaction. I can't think of anything else I'd rather be doing with my life."

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John Boag '80 finds himself in a career that's equally unexpected—and just as personally compelling. A history major at LVC, Boag figured he'd find work in a museum after he graduated. Little did he know that one day he'd essentially *be* a museum. Boag is the **master craftsman of the wheelwright shop at Colonial Williamsburg** in Virginia. He's one of only three people on the planet who builds wooden wagon wheels using nothing but pre-industrial tools—that means no computer-aided design, no power saws or sanders ... and no *nails*. "I spent the summer after my second year at LVC interpreting at a water-powered grist mill," Boag says. "That got me hooked on pre-industrial technology. From there on, I knew what my main interest was." Preserving and perpetuating a skill that pretty much no one does anymore is deeply meaningful to Boag. "I feel entrusted with the preservation of the skills and knowledge of the trade," he says.

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Like Boag, **David Doll '99** practices a time-honored handicraft. He had no idea when he signed on with the **Martin Guitar Company** a couple months after graduation that he had stumbled on his dream job. Doll earned a degree in trumpet performance from LVC. He spent the first months after graduation working at a local golf course, and that fall, applied for an opening at Martin in Nazareth, Pa. He had dabbled in guitar when he was a kid, and had played at a few open mic nights at MJ's Coffeehouse while at LVC, but he didn't really consider himself a guitar person. Yet something about working with the instrument felt familiar. "When I was a little kid I used to make guitars out of tissue boxes, with paper towel tube necks and rubber bands as strings," he says.

*David Doll '99
Custom Repair and Artist
Relations Technician
Martin Guitar Company*





*"I feel entrusted with
the preservation of the
skills and knowledge
of the trade."*

*John Boag '80
Master Craftsman
Colonial Williamsburg*

Doll started out installing frets in guitar fingerboards, eventually moving on to stringing and final inspection, and finally to his current position as a **customer repair and artist relations technician**. Learning to build guitars has differed from taking music lessons. "The knowledge is not readily available or taught in a class," Doll explains. "It's up to you to grow and learn."

Working at Martin has inspired Doll to develop his own line of electric guitars and to do some performing, too. He was voted best acoustic guitarist in the Lehigh Valley in 2006 and continues to record and perform throughout the country on guitar and trumpet.

Doll feels fortunate to be at Martin. "People travel from all over the world to visit the facility," he says. "The fact that I'm part of the history and that it's helped me build on what I've done since I was 5 years old is, to me, the greatest career I could have."

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"When I was a little kid I used to make guitars out of tissue boxes, with paper towel tube necks and rubber bands as strings."

David Doll '99
Custom Repair and Artist Relations Technician
Martin Guitar Company

Jessica Kindt '01 is also amazed at her good fortune in finding a career. Today, she is a **programs manager at The Franklin Institute** in Philadelphia, but when she declared her biology major at LVC, she expected to become a school teacher like so many of her relatives. "Teaching runs in the family," she says. She took an internship with the youth program at The Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts in Harrisburg. "It was there that I fell head-over-heels in love with educating in museums," she says.

But how did she get to The Franklin Institute? It wasn't from having been there as a kid. "I actually didn't

know much about this museum other than when I was in grade school. My sister went on a field trip to The Franklin Institute and I didn't," she says. "I was quite jealous!" After graduation, Kindt enrolled in the museum education program at The University of the Arts in Philadelphia. A nearby internship at The Franklin Institute turned into a full-time position in August 2004.

"I never get tired of teaching and learning in the most interactive ways our creative brains can think of," Kindt says. "I've had the opportunity to engage people in various science topics from chemistry to anatomy to nanotechnology to lightning to trebuchets and catapults. There truly is never a boring day here."

"I'm not sure how other people make it through their work days without getting to dissect a cow's eyeball, make a tornado in a bottle, or explode a tiny film canister full of water and Alka Seltzer," she adds. "But it's all in a day's work in the museum programs department at The Franklin Institute!"

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If there's an LVC graduate whose career path has been the most circuitous, it may be **John R. Morris '59**. A chemistry major at LVC, Morris went on to earn a master's degree from the University of New Hampshire—in physics. **Dr. Jacob "Jake" Rhodes '43**, now LVC professor *emeritus* of physics, recruited Morris to come back and teach at the Valley, which he did for several years. Today, Morris is a **founding partner of the Rocky Mountain Hat Company** in Bozeman, Mont. How he got from point to point is a tale worth telling.

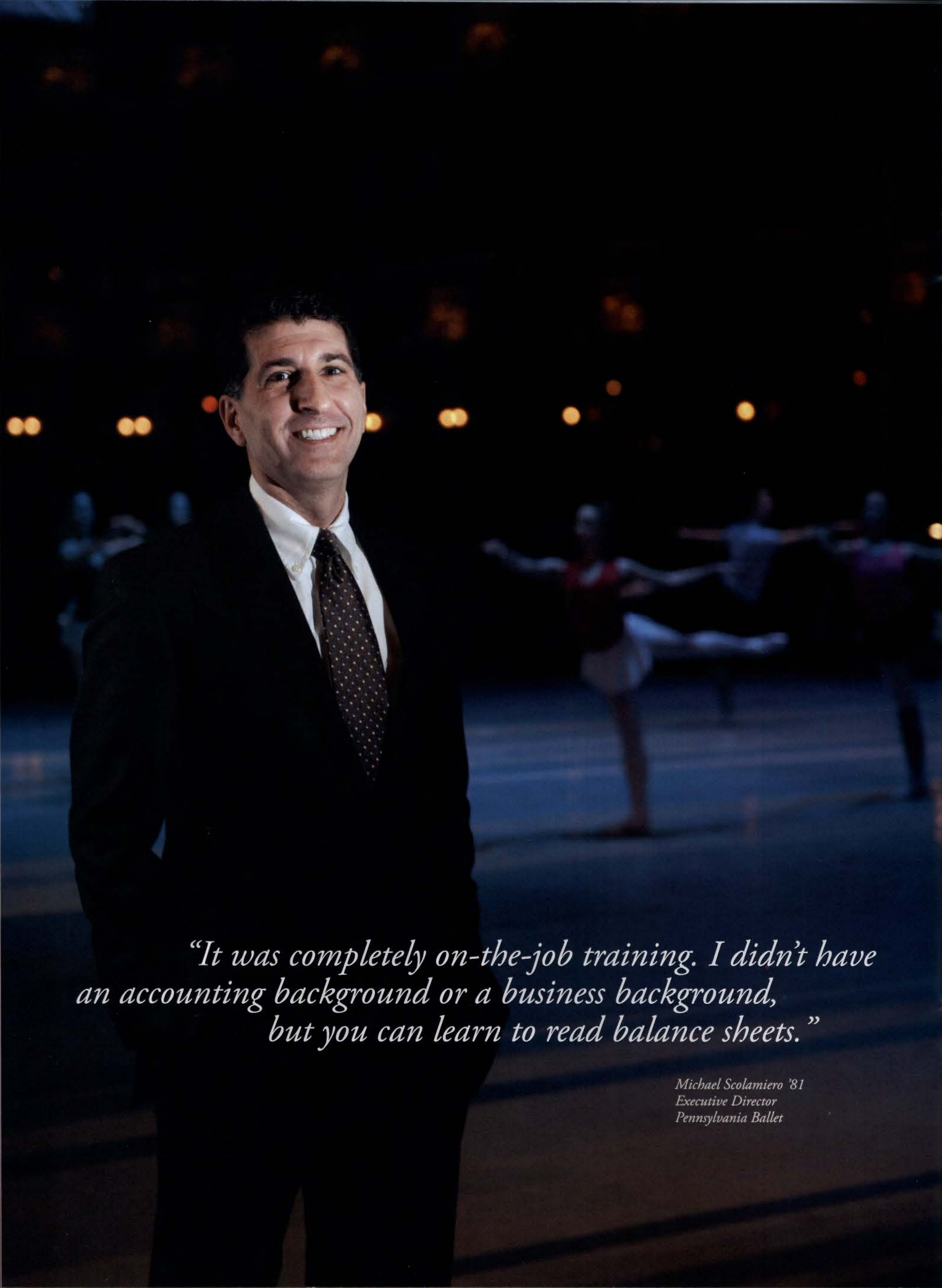
"I was recruited by General Electric while I was still teaching physics at Lebanon Valley," Morris says. He moved to Syracuse, N.Y., to take on a project physicist position with the company, and after that project ended, moved to GE's research lab in Schenectady, N.Y. In 1978, his marriage ended, and with his children both in college in Colorado, Morris decided to move west to be closer to them. He worked in different capacities during Colorado's oil-and-gas boom in the late '70s and early '80s. "It was a pretty uncontrolled but dynamic time," he says, "and it was really a lot of fun." In 1983, he remarried and moved to Bozeman, where his life took on a whole new complexion.

"From the time I was a kid, one of my hobbies has always been bowhunting," says Morris. "At one point



"I'm not sure how other people make it through their work days without getting to dissect a cow's eyeball, make a tornado in a bottle, or explode a tiny film canister full of water and Alka Seltzer."

*Jessica Kindt '01
Programs Manager
The Franklin Institute*

A man in a dark suit, white shirt, and patterned tie stands in the foreground, smiling. He is positioned on the left side of the frame. In the background, several dancers in white and red costumes are performing on a stage, their movements blurred. The background is dark with some out-of-focus lights.

*"It was completely on-the-job training. I didn't have
an accounting background or a business background,
but you can learn to read balance sheets."*

*Michael Scolamiero '81
Executive Director
Pennsylvania Ballet*

I was looking for a new bow and I couldn't find one I liked. So, being a physicist, I designed a bow and built it for myself and started hunting with it," he says. "I took some record-book animals with it, and pretty soon, I built one for my son and some for my friends. That led to a business building custom take-down recurve hunting bows." Eventually his son joined the business, and the two have worked together ever since.

Then there came a day, Morris says, when he realized he needed a new hat. "I wanted a good custom hat and I couldn't find one," he says. "I figured out how to make one, and after that, I made some for a couple of my hunting buddies. Pretty soon people were asking me if I could make them hats."

One hat led to another, and today the Rocky Mountain Hat Company designs more than 100 models of high-end, custom-made, Western-style hats—"everything from fedoras to cowboy-type hats," Morris says, and the company is doing quite well, with a nine-month backlog of business.

"After you've built about 10,000 hats, the next 10,000 aren't that exciting," Morris admits. "But the best thing about this business is that probably 90 percent of my good personal friends are people who walked into the hat shop to buy a hat. That's been the thing that's really enjoyable about the business. And you're making something that's a high-quality product that people take pride in wearing."

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If you want an example of dedication, talk to **George Neill '76**. He studied business administration and economics at LVC on a scholarship from **Griffith Laboratories**, the global food-product manufacturer in Alsip, Ill., that had employed his father for decades. After graduation, Neill went to work for Griffith, too. "My first job was as an assistant foreman in the mixing department," he says. "It was a low-end management position, probably as low-end as you get." But over the years, Neill worked his way up through 10 different positions at Griffith, from night-shift sanitation supervisor through manufacturing operations, quality improvement, and information technology, to his current position as **director of worldwide continuous improvement**. "My theory is, if you're reasonably good at whatever you do, you generally can be used in a lot of

different areas," he says. "If you're organized, you have a good work ethic, your loyalty is there, your integrity is there—you can help out."

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Karen Lewis Schmitt '80 has taken a similarly flexible approach to her career. She started out as a math major with the intention of one day teaching in a high school, until an admissions counselor suggested actuarial science might be a better fit. After Schmitt enrolled in a few classes, she never looked back. Today, Schmitt is **president of Maiden Re**, a reinsurance underwriter in Mt. Laurel, N.J. Her career rise attests to Schmitt's adaptability. "I started here as an actuary," she says. "I began to pick up other responsibilities over the years, and in 2008, I was promoted to chief operating officer." She was named president of the company in 2009. "How do you learn to become president?" she asks rhetorically. "You just do all the pieces at one point or another in your career."

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"My theory is, if you're reasonably good at whatever you do, you generally can be used in a lot of different areas."

*George Neill '76
Director of Worldwide Continuous Improvement
Griffith Laboratories*

Being nimble enough to seize opportunities and learn on the job also benefitted **Michael Scolamiero '81**. He graduated from LVC thinking he'd become a music teacher. Today, he's **executive director of the Pennsylvania Ballet** in Philadelphia, one of the country's largest ballet companies with an annual budget of more than \$10 million. For Scolamiero, a part-time job in graduate school at Penn State opened his eyes to his interest in arts management—and being a quick

study taught him how. "I served as the assistant to the conductor of the symphony orchestra at Penn State," he says. "In that capacity, I was working in public relations, personnel, and administration. I found that I was good at it."

After graduate school, Scolamiero moved to the Philadelphia area and volunteered as personnel manager for the Haddonfield Symphony in New Jersey. He also served as executive director of the West Jersey Chamber Music Society in Moorestown, and the Choral Arts Society of Philadelphia. He has been with the Pennsylvania Ballet since 1997.

"I've always been anti-death penalty...I can make a difference to people society has discarded."

Maria DeLiberato Chamberlin '00
Attorney
Tampa Capital Collateral Regional Counsel

"An arts organization typically does not have the benefit of having well-organized management that really approaches the operations in a practical manner and that has a sensitivity to the mission of the organization," Scolamiero says. "With my music background and my love of classical music and the arts in general, when I sit down with the artistic director, I'm looking at trying to make a season work. I'm not just thinking about the bottom line. I can really relate to the artistic director's needs with respect to challenging the audience and challenging the performers."

But how did he learn to run the business end of things? "It was completely on-the-job training," Scolamiero says. "I didn't have an accounting background or a business background, but you can learn to read balance sheets. And knowing that, at the end of the day I can sit back and watch a performance with an organization of this caliber, it's really a great thing."

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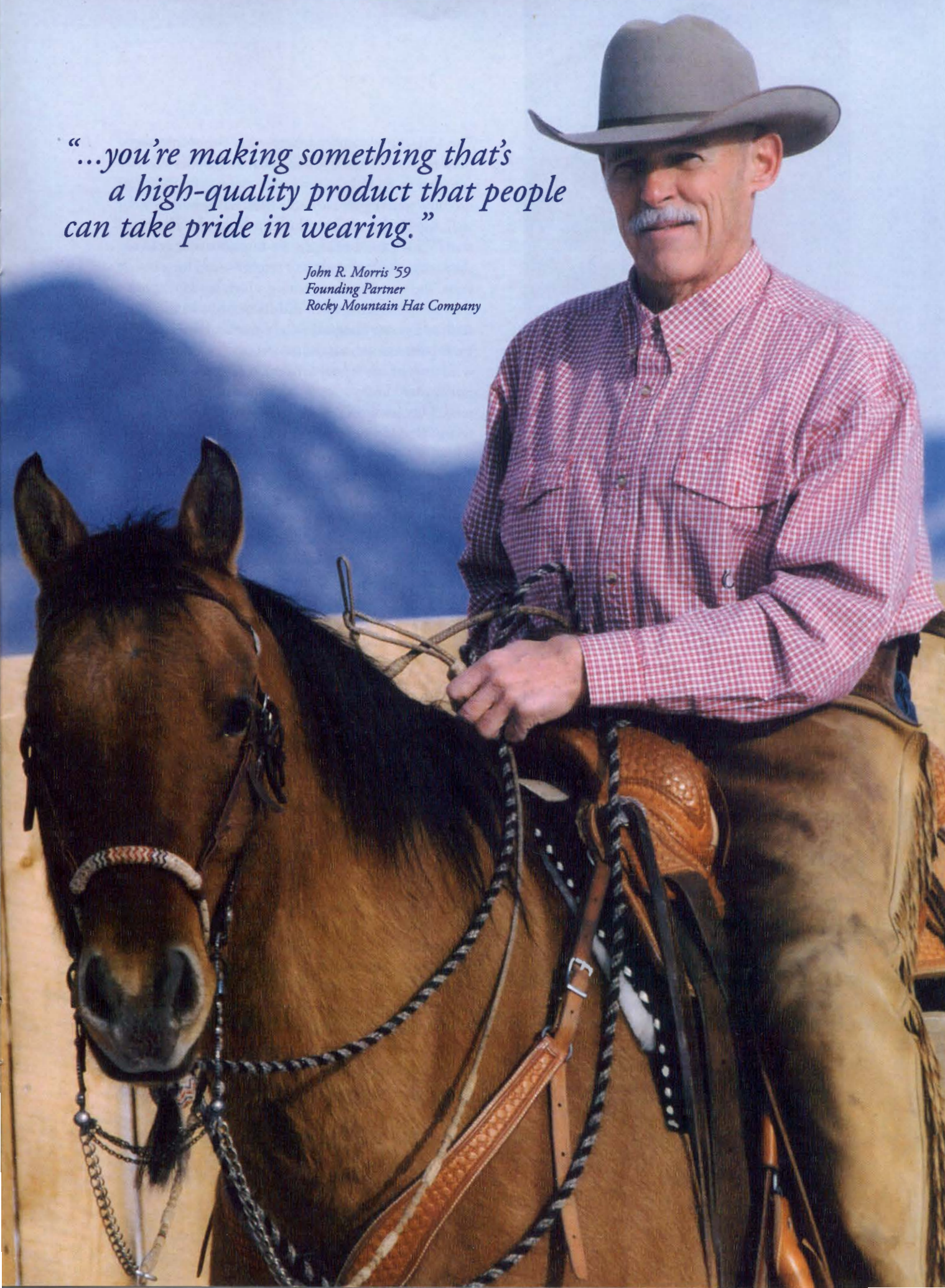
Taking a broad, multi-disciplinary view of matters is crucial to **Maria DeLiberato Chamberlin '00** as she works to help Florida prison inmates avoid death row. At LVC, Chamberlin majored in political science and minored in English literature, but knew she was ultimately headed for law school. After passing the bar exam, she worked at the state attorney's office in Miami, Fla., eventually moving on to **Tampa's Capital Collateral Regional Counsel**, which reviews criminal cases where the defendant has been sentenced with the death penalty. "Essentially we're the last line of defense," Chamberlin says. "It's our job to look at the whole case from the beginning and make sure the lawyers did everything they were supposed to do, and make sure the prosecutors turned over all the evidence." Chamberlin is passionate about her work. "I've always been anti-death penalty," she admits—and she's passionate about contributing to her community in a meaningful way. "I can make a difference to people society has discarded," she says.

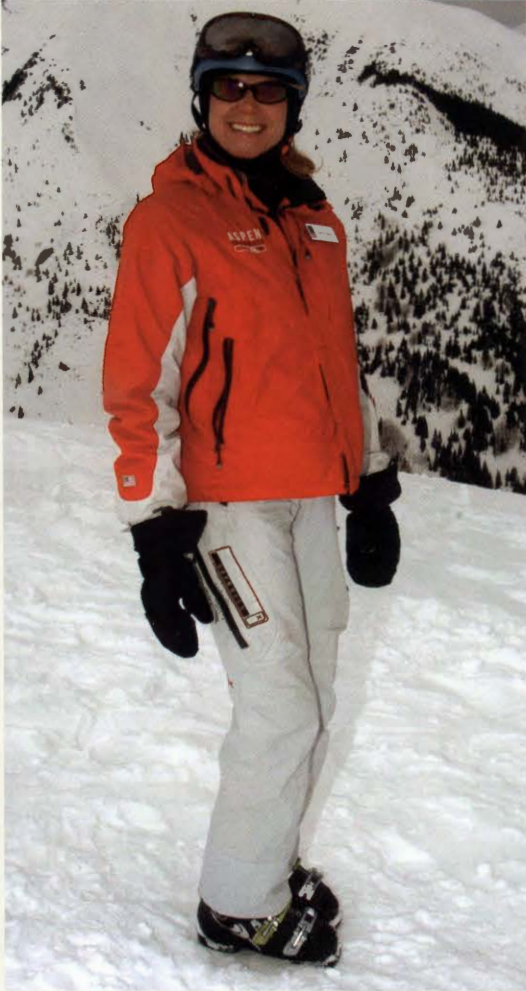
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Like Chamberlin, **George Reiner '86** also evaluates the big picture—but on a molecular level. At LVC, Reiner studied chemistry. He'd always been interested in the field of instrumental analytical chemistry, where scientists work out what ingredients, in what amounts, make up a given substance. After graduate school at Virginia Tech, where he studied explosives detection, Reiner was hired by Exxon in the field of petroleum analysis. Nine years later, he was recruited by **International Flavors and Fragrances** in New York City, which produces flavors and fragrances for clients around the world. Today, Reiner is a **senior research fellow** with the company and leads its chromatography group, which analyzes plant fragrances and helps the company synthesize new flavors and fragrances for use in products. For Reiner, the best part of the job is solving a chemical puzzle. "You have a problem that you're trying to troubleshoot—maybe we're looking at plants and we want to know why they smell the way they smell," he says. "You end up with all these bits of information from the different tests, and you have to make sense of them."

*"...you're making something that's
a high-quality product that people
can take pride in wearing."*

*John R. Morris '59
Founding Partner
Rocky Mountain Hat Company*





*Darla Dixon Strait '87
Ski Professional
Aspen, Co.*

At LVC, business major **Charles Beirne '82** threw the shot put for the track team and captained his football team for two years. After graduation, he figured he was destined for a career as an accountant. "When I left LVC, I worked in New Jersey for the city of Atlantic City in the finance department. Then, I became the city manager of Ventnor," Beirne says. But, 11 years ago, he realized he was ready for a change, so he signed on as **director of finance for SMG World**, the world's largest private management firm for public facilities, such as convention centers, exhibition halls, and arenas. Today, he's a regional general manager in charge of both the Atlantic City Convention Center and near by Historic Boardwalk Hall. "It's the entertainment business! Every day is different," he says. He has overseen the planning and execution of diverse events—from the International Power Boat Show and the Atlantic 10 Men's Basketball Championship, to midget car races and concerts by Madonna, Paul McCartney, Jimmy Buffett, and more.

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The 19th-century philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer once noted that when you look back over your life, it can tend to read like a novel with meaningful plots and subplots weaving into a whole that feels remarkably, well, whole. The career of **Lonna Snavelly Thompson '75** is a good example. An English major at LVC, she always thought she'd be a teacher—and for a couple years, she was. She was teaching a high school English class on mass media when she discovered two things. "I realized I wasn't designed to be a teacher," she says, "but I was passionate about the subject matter." Thompson went to graduate school for a master's degree in communications and got a job as a paralegal at a Washington, D.C., law firm that specialized in communications issues. That job eventually inspired her to go on to law school at Georgetown University.

After about a decade in private practice doing communications law, Thompson's life took another turn when she and her husband started their family. First, they welcomed a set of twins, and then, two years later, a third child. Thompson decided to scale back for a few years, and took a part-time position with the **Association of Public Television Stations (APTS)**, a nonprofit in Arlington, Va., that supports non-commercial television. As her children got older, she transitioned back to full-time work with the association, taking on more responsibility as her children grew. Today, she's **senior vice president and general counsel for APTS**.

"I see that what I'm doing now combines all of my careers," she says. "It combines my love for teaching and education, my love for communication and mass media, and my legal training. It's an ideal mix for me to be working in a field that really makes a difference, particularly in early childhood education. And it's been really fun. I get up every day feeling enthusiastic about my work."

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The career of **Mary Ellen Hume-Hamor '76** has been similarly multifaceted. Now, the LVC psychology graduate is a **site procurement specialist with Helms-Briscoe**, a global conference services firm in Scottsdale, Ariz. "I help corporate, association, government, and nonprofit clients find the best destinations and hotels for their meetings, conferences, and special events," she says. "My clients are primarily U.S. and Canadian

organizations, and I've secured meeting venues on their behalf ranging from New York and Los Angeles to Barcelona and Bora Bora. It's a pretty good fit for someone long interested in people and world cultures, Hume-Hamor admits. "Travel and the hospitality industry gave me the chance to experience people from all walks of life and to see the value in our similarities and differences."

After graduating from LVC, Hume-Hamor married, had a daughter, and ultimately divorced. She then moved to New York City and took a job in advertising. Eventually, she moved to Aruba to handle sales and marketing for a tall ship charter company. That position led to work in Southern California, Washington State, and New York City in the travel and tourism industry. In 2005, she was recruited to work for HelmsBriscoe. "I have the wonderful opportunity to work with people from all over the world," she says. "My work also allows me to concentrate on what I want to do without being limited by where I want to live. I can do my job from anywhere that has Internet access and cell service."

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"Travel and the hospitality industry gave me the chance to experience people from all walks of life and to see the value in our similarities and differences."

Mary Ellen Hume-Hamor '76
Site Procurement Specialist
HelmsBriscoe

While some find their calling accidentally and others use their educations to move into positions of increasing responsibility, sometimes a liberal arts graduate's career is right in front of them, in the form of a hobby or pastime. **Karen Moyer Chow '94** came to LVC thinking she would go into graphic design. But

today, she **runs her own dressmaking business** in the Lancaster area. **Gowns by Karen Chow** specializes in wedding dress design, construction, and alteration—creative work that Chow says she's long done for herself. "I've always sewn and made my own dresses," says Chow. "Sewing comes to me naturally; it's just something I like to do. My grandmother loves to sew and quilt, my mother does a lot of crafty stuff, and it's sort of been passed down to me."

After graduation, Chow wanted to explore new options. "I went out and took some classes, like patternmaking and draping," she says. "I opened my own business and just went for it. It's going on 11 years, and going very well. I have a very steady clientele, and I can pretty much count on having a certain income every year."

Chow finds that her career suits her, if you'll pardon the metaphor, like an expertly tailored gown. "This fits well into my life," she says. With two small children, being able to work from her home is a real bonus. "It's something that I feel I was meant to do. I can't imagine anything else I could do with my life, so I'm glad I started it when I was young instead of waiting until I was older."

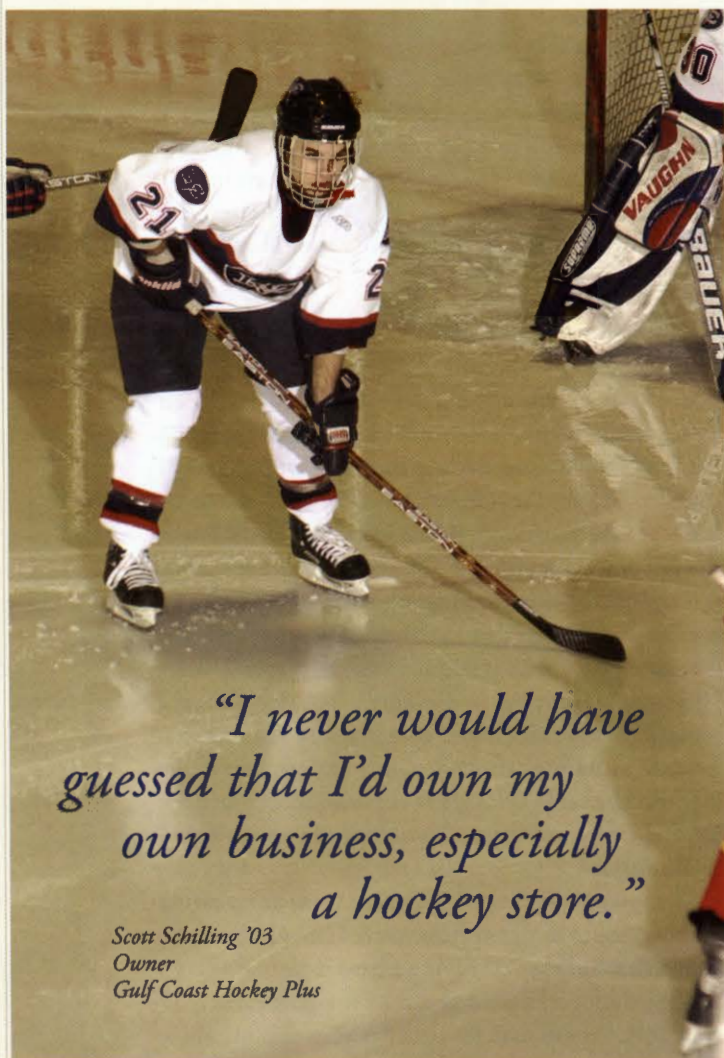
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Like Chow, **Darla Dixon Strait '87** has developed a career that lets her do what she loves while giving her the flexibility she needs as the mother of two small children. A flute performance major at LVC, today Strait is a **ski professional in Aspen, Colo.** Although she grew up skiing from the age of 3, Strait finds that it was the one-on-one teaching skills she picked up in her myriad flute lessons that have helped her the most on the slopes, where she teaches young skiers ages 7 to 17. "I'm not the best skier in the world," she says. "They actually hired me for my teaching skills. I learned how to teach by paying attention to how my teachers taught me. You also learn through all those hours of practicing and listening to yourself and evaluating your own performance."

After graduating from LVC, Strait went on to earn a master's degree in flute performance from Ohio State University. But she was having a hard time finding enough work performing and teaching, so she moved to New York City to look for better-paying opportunities.

"I got a job at Carnegie Hall working in their press office," she says. "I also worked at the Manhattan School of Music and Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, all in public relations." This work led to a position in 2003 as publicity director at the world-renowned Aspen Music Festival and School. After she left that position, Strait was ready for something different, so she began to teach skiing. She also met and married her husband in Aspen and now has a 3-year-old daughter and a 2-month-old son. "I live in one of the most beautiful places on the planet," she says, "and I'm never leaving!"

...



"I never would have guessed that I'd own my own business, especially a hockey store."

Scott Schilling '03
Owner
Gulf Coast Hockey Plus

James Sbarro '82 is also making a living doing something he's always loved doing: running his own business. Sbarro is **president and CEO of Farmland Foods, Inc.**, a subsidiary of Smithfield Foods in Smithfield, Va., and one of the country's largest producers of pork products. Farmland employs more than 9,300 people at 13 plants and does more than \$3.5 billion in annual sales throughout the United States and in more than 60 countries. "I always had a dream of owning my own business," he says. "I'd grown up in the food business, working in a deli currently owned by my brother. What I didn't realize at the time was that little deli taught me basic business disciplines that, believe it or not, translate into big business. Cash flow, employee relations, inventory management, finance, procurement, advertising, marketing, operations—these hands-on encounters laid a solid foundation for my current career." Sbarro majored in business at LVC and later earned a master's degree in business administration. "I suppose I could be in the widget business, but I've always had a passion for food," he says. "The food business is resilient, dynamic, and ever-changing. Everyone has to eat!"

...

Scott Schilling '03 also found his career through extracurricular interests. At LVC, he studied hotel management and marketing. But outside of class, Schilling spent a lot of his time at the Hersheypark Arena as a member of the Valley's ice hockey team. He came to LVC by way of Wisconsin, where he'd grown up playing hockey since the age of 3. After graduation, Schilling's father, who had retired to Florida, suggested that his son open a hockey equipment store there. "We did some market research, and here we are," says Schilling, who opened **Gulf Coast Hockey Plus** in Estero, Fla., in 2005. The shop specializes in ice and in-line hockey equipment and supplies, and lacrosse equipment. The store is doing so well, Schilling plans to open another two stores this year.

But a hockey store in Florida? "You wouldn't think of Florida as a hockey state, but hockey does very well here," Schilling says, citing the state's two NHL teams and numerous minor league teams. "There are a lot of northern transplants here in southern Florida who have enjoyed and played hockey all their lives."

Still, Schilling is surprised to see himself in this business. "I never would have guessed that I'd own my own business, especially a hockey store," he says. He credits his father and his wife, **Amber Shotwell Schilling '02**, for encouraging him and helping him get started.

Schilling never put away his stick after graduating from LVC. He recently returned to Pennsylvania for an alumni hockey game in Hersheypark Arena. "We had a great turnout," he says. "All the guys have kept in great contact with each other through the years." He credits the late off-ice coordinator **Walt Smith '61** for keeping the players connected. "For years, he sent monthly newsletters about what was happening with ice hockey alumni," he says.

• • •

John "Jack" Hubley '73 is another alumnus who found a way to fold his earliest love into a career he never could have imagined. "I've been a **naturalist** from the age of 6, when I got my first butterfly net," he says. "Any wild animal that was smaller than me was destined to be dragged home." Today, Hubley is **host of Wild Moments**, a nature segment airing during the evening news on Lancaster's NBC affiliate, WGAL-TV.

Hubley chose psychology as his major at LVC because he thought he could learn a lot about animal behavior without getting bogged down in classes like chemistry and physics. After graduation, he applied his love of the outdoors to a career in journalism, where he focused on writing articles about the outdoors. "At one point, I had interviewed the program director at WGAL regarding the host of *Call of the Outdoors*," he says, describing a locally produced nature program the station was airing at the time. "Later the program director called and asked me if I wanted to audition to host the show." Hubley says he leapt at the opportunity despite never having been on television before—and he got the job. Since then, he's hosted three different outdoor programs for the station, including the long-running *Wild Moments*, which was syndicated on 140 broadcast stations nationwide between 2000 and 2004.

Hubley also does wildlife programming in local elementary and middle schools, and serves as **director of The Falconry Experience by the Hotel Hershey**, for Hershey Entertainment & Resorts. "I've been a falconer



*James Sbarro '82
President and CEO
Farmland Foods, Inc.*

for 23 years," he says. "I really love the privilege of being able to go into the field with the raptors and hunt in partnership with them and watch them do what they've evolved to do.

"The big appeal to me is to bridge that gap between man and the wild. That's magical to me," he says. "Doing what I do with television and in schools, I get to share that magic with people and maybe open up the world of wildlife to them, particularly the kids."

Hubley's story—in fact, all of these stories—highlight what's exciting about taking a liberal arts approach toward education and career. It has something to do with opening yourself and preparing yourself to take advantage of unexpected opportunities. "Life takes you in directions that you have no way of dreaming of ahead of time," Hubley says. "Opportunities come up that blindsides you. You get a phone call from a director of an NBC affiliate who asks if you want to try out for a television host spot. I never dreamed something like that would happen!"

What's key, he says, is taking advantage of opportunities when they arise and being willing to run with them wherever they take you. "In the end, you probably wind up where you should be—if you're willing to work," he says. And as these LVC alumni can attest, that can be a pretty surprising—and fascinating—place.

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Statement of Activities

For year ended June 30

REVENUES AND OTHER ADDITIONS

	2009	2008
EDUCATIONAL AND GENERAL:		
Tuition and Fees (net of institutional financial aid)	\$29,335,631	\$27,673,672
Government Grants	2,056,309	2,379,699
Gifts and Private Grants	2,890,152	2,825,346
Endowment / Investment Income	1,206,242	1,910,867
AUXILIARY ENTERPRISES	12,059,597	11,608,764
INTEREST ON LOANS	5,525	4,532
GAINS ON INVESTMENTS, NET	(7,246,430)	(1,666,632)
TOTAL REVENUE AND OTHER ADDITIONS	\$40,307,026	\$44,736,248

EXPENDITURES AND OTHER DEDUCTIONS

	2009	2008
EDUCATIONAL AND GENERAL:		
Instruction	\$14,274,614	\$13,549,294
Academic Support	2,892,543	2,642,630
Student Services	6,353,913	5,624,182
Public Services	566,804	623,477
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	4,157,032	3,972,264
General Institution	7,184,940	7,528,799
Student Aid (government)	904,207	809,445
AUXILIARY ENTERPRISES	7,931,288	7,543,829
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER DEDUCTIONS	\$44,265,341	\$42,293,920
Change in Net Assets	(3,958,315)	2,442,328
Net Assets Beginning of Year	\$105,099,710	\$102,657,382
Net Assets End of Year	\$101,141,395	\$105,099,710



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